



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Corps reopens Bennington Lake recreational access

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials reopened Bennington Lake to recreational visitors at about 11 a.m. today.

The lake had been closed Tuesday to allow safe access for helicopters filling water buckets from the lake to fight the Columbia Complex fire near Dayton, Wash., in Columbia County.

Officials from the U.S. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, Walla Walla Ranger District, this morning informed Corps managers at Walla Walla District's Mill Creek Project that helicopter bucket operations at Bennington Lake had ceased and the recreation area could be reopened for public use.

Outdoors enthusiasts can enjoy scenic views while taking advantage of picnicking, fishing, boating and swimming opportunities at Mill Creek recreation sites. The Bennington Lake Recreation Area is open year round, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. *Facilities:* day-use area, picnic shelters, boat ramp, pedestrian/horseback-riding trails, hunting, fishing. *Getting there:* from Hwy. 12 at the east end of Walla Walla, exit south onto Tausick Way, continue past Walla Walla Community College, immediately on the south side of the Mill Creek crossing, turn left onto Reservoir Road and follow it to the lake.

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Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nwww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil